

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Revenue offers last-minute state income tax assistance

(HELENA) - The state income tax filing deadline is just around the corner, and the Montana Department of Revenue is offering assistance to those still working on their state income tax returns.

"Montana taxpayers are great to work with and as the deadline nears, we want to help them in every way we can," said Dan Bucks, Director of the Department of Revenue.

By law, the annual filing deadline is April 15; however, because of the observance of Emancipation Day in Washington, D.C., this year returns will be accepted until April 18.

The department provides assistance on individual income tax matters through its call center, statewide local offices, and Internet website.

Call center

Taxpayers can call the department for assistance toll-free at 1-866-859-2254 between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If calling from the Helena area, please dial 444-6900.

The call center will offer extended hours during the last few days before the tax deadline. Extended hours will be:

Wednesday, April 13 – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 14 – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday, April 15 – 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 16 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday, April 18 – 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Local offices

During income tax season, the department also offers taxpayer assistance at its headquarters in Helena and its local office in Missoula. A taxpayer can drop by one of these two offices to use a computer and electronically file a state income tax return for free. The taxpayer needs to prepare the state income tax return in advance.

The Helena headquarters are located in the Mitchell Building, 125 N. Roberts, on the 3rd floor. Taxpayers are encouraged to use the parking lot on Sanders Street. The hours for assistance are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. This site also offers assistance on state tax returns, in addition to free electronic filing.

The local office in Missoula is located at 2681 Palmer Street, Suite 1. The hours for assistance are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Taxpayers also are invited to visit any of the department's local offices, located throughout the state, during normal business hours if they need the most commonly used state tax forms, schedules and instructions.

In addition, there are more than 100 volunteer tax preparation sites around the state through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the AARP Tax-Aide Montana program. To find out if you qualify and to see a comprehensive listing of locations, visit MontanaFreeFile.org.

Website

Taxpayers who prefer to get information online can visit the Department of Revenue's website at *revenue.mt.gov*. The site contains helpful income tax information, free electronic filing, downloadable forms and instructions, important updates and filing tips.

Online payment of current and back-year taxes is also available on *revenue.mt.gov* through Income Tax Express.

"Electronic filing is a great option," said Bucks. "Taxpayers who file their tax return electronically and also request direct deposit are in the best possible situation. That combination can get your refund to you in less than a week."

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